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Sir:

The attorney's Docket Number is ATMSP-001.

Kindly address all communications regarding this application to:

Kenneth D' Alessasndro
Sierra Patent Group, Ltd.
P.O. Box 6149
Stateline, Nevada 89449
Telephone: (775) 586-9500
Fax: (775) 586-9550

No fee is being paid at this time.

Respectfully submitted,
Sierra Patent Group, Ltd.

Dated: July 28, 2000

Sierra Patent Group, Ltd.
P.O. Box 6149
Stateline, NV 89449
(775) 586-9500

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Kenneth D' Alessandro', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kenneth D' Alessandro
Reg. No.: 29,144

This application is submitted in the name of inventor Michael John Sabin, assignor to Atmel Corporation.

SPECIFICATION

CRYPTOGRAPHY PRIVATE KEY STORAGE AND RECOVERY METHOD AND APPARATUS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates generally to cryptography systems. More particularly, the present invention relates to an apparatus and method for storing and recovering the private key in a public-key/private-key cryptography system.

2. The Prior Art

The RSA (Rivest, Shamir, and Adelman) scheme is a popular form of public-key cryptography. The RSA scheme uses: a public key, consisting of a public modulus n and a public exponent e ; and a private key, consisting of the modulus n and a private exponent d . The public modulus n is an integer that is the product of two distinct prime factors p and q , i.e., $n = pq$. The factors are secret information and not disclosed

by the holder of the private key. The public exponent e is an integer that is relatively prime to the values $(p - 1)$ and $(q - 1)$. The private exponent d is an integer such that $ed \bmod (p - 1) = ed \bmod (q - 1) = 1$.

One application of the RSA scheme is to encrypt messages. Any party can use the public key to encrypt a message that can only be decrypted by the holder of the private key. Let m be the message to be encrypted, where m is an integer in the range $0 < m < n$. The encrypted message c is computed as $c = m^e \bmod n$. To decrypt the encrypted message, the holder of the private key computes $m = c^d \bmod n$. For instance, party A wishing to send an encrypted message to party B would encrypt the message by obtaining party B's public key. Since the message can only be decrypted with the correct party B private key that will be associated with the party B public key, only party B is able to decrypt the message.

Another application of the RSA scheme is to sign messages. The holder of the private key can apply a signature to a message that can be verified by any party using the public key. Let m be the message to be signed, where m is an integer in the range of $0 < m < n$. The signature s is computed as $s = m^d \bmod n$. To verify the signature, any party uses the public key to compute $m' = s^e \bmod n$. If the value of m' matches the value of m , the signature is valid.

The security of the RSA scheme rests on the presumed difficulty of determining the factors of the public modulus. That is, given n , it is believed to be very difficult to determine the factors p and q such that $n = pq$. The difficulty of the factoring problem increases as the size of p and q increases. In a practical implementation, p and q each

consist of hundreds or thousands of binary digits (bits); since n is the product of p and q , it, too, consists of hundreds or thousands of bits.

The modular exponentiation operation used in RSA is a computationally expensive operation. The complexity of the operation increases approximately linearly with the number of bits in the exponent and quadratically with the number of bits in the modulus. Fortunately, there are some well-known methods that reduce the computational expense.

To reduce the expense of the public-key operation, it is common to pick the public exponent to be a small number. This is acceptable because the security of the RSA scheme is largely independent of the size of the public exponent. A popular choice for the public exponent is $e = 2^{16} + 1$; this value appears to be emerging as a defacto standard for new applications. Other common choices are $e = 3$ and $e = 17$. With a small public exponent, the computational expense of the RSA public-key operation is relatively small. In other words, it is relatively inexpensive to encrypt a message or verify a signature.

Unfortunately, the private exponent d cannot be picked small. Its value cannot be freely chosen; it must satisfy the condition that $ed \bmod (p - 1) = ed \bmod (q - 1) = 1$. The security of the RSA scheme rests on p and q being large and arbitrarily selected. As a result, d is an integer of a size comparable to that of the public modulus n . This makes the expense of the private-key operation relatively high. In other words, it is relatively expensive to decrypt a message or create a signature.

The expense of private-key operation can be reduced by using the Chinese Remainder Theorem (CRT). The CRT requires the computation of several quantities, as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} 5 \quad & d_p = d \bmod (p-1); \\ & d_q = d \bmod (q-1); \\ & v \text{ such that } pv \bmod q = 1. \end{aligned}$$

Then, the private-key operation $y = g^d \bmod n$ is computed as:

$$\begin{aligned} & a = (g \bmod p)^{d_p} \bmod p; \\ & b = (g \bmod q)^{d_q} \bmod q; \\ & y = a + [(b - a)v \bmod q]p. \end{aligned}$$

15 If the expense of computing d_p , d_q , and v is neglected, the computational expense of the private-key operation using the CRT is about one-fourth that of the private-key operation not using the CRT. This is a large reduction in computational expense, and it makes the CRT desirable for many applications.

Unfortunately, the expense of computing d_p , d_q , and v is not necessarily negligible.

20 Accordingly, many applications simply precompute the values of d_p , d_q , and v and store them along with the factors p and q as part of the private key. An application that stores the parameter set $\{p, q, d_p, d_q, v\}$ can perform the private-key operation using the CRT

with the least possible computational expense. Each of the five parameters requires b bits of storage, where b is the number of bits in a prime factor of the modulus. Thus, the total storage for the private key is $5b$ bits.

In some applications, however, storing the private key as $\{p, q, d_p, d_q, v\}$ is not desirable because of the amount of storage space required. If the application instead stores the private key as $\{p, q\}$, the private-key storage space is reduced from $5b$ bits to $2b$ bits, a reduction by a factor of 2.5. However, the application must then compute d_p , d_q , and v each time it performs a private-key operation. This may be an undesirable computational expense.

An example of an application where these issues are a concern is a low-cost smart card used to create digital signatures. The card stores a set of RSA private keys, with each key used to create signatures for a different purpose. For example, one key might be used to sign purchases made with a particular credit card; another key may be used to sign electronic mail messages; another key might be used to sign bank transactions; and so on. Because of its low cost, the smart card has a limited amount of storage space. It is desirable for the card to store as many private keys as possible in the limited space. Furthermore, because of its low cost, the smart card has a simple processor with limited computing capability. Since it is undesirable for the signature computation to take an inordinate amount of time, it is important to minimize the computational expense of the RSA private-key operation.

Another issue associated with computing d_p , d_q , and v is security. A common way to compute d_p , d_q , and v from p and q is to use Euclid's algorithm, or common variations

thereof. Euclid's algorithm is a sequence of arithmetic operations that can be used to solve the problem, "Given integers x and z , find y such that $xy \bmod z = 1$." The sequence of operations depends on the numerical values of the operands; that is, a change in the numerical values of y or z may cause a change in the order of arithmetic operations such as multiply, subtract, etc. Such dependency may make the private key stored within an application vulnerable to discovery by an attacker who cleverly chooses inputs to the application while measuring externally available responses such as electrical current draw, electromagnetic emissions, etc. Such attacks have been successfully carried out on actual security devices, both commercial and governmental. To reduce vulnerability to such attacks, it is desirable that the sequence of operations used to compute d_p , d_q , and v not change with the values of p and q .

Continuing with the example of the low-cost smart card, the card includes an arithmetic coprocessor that accelerates the modular exponentiation operations used in RSA. During private-key operations, the modular exponentiation is vulnerable to attacks of the type just described. To reduce vulnerability to such attacks, the coprocessor is carefully designed to ensure that its sequence of operations does not depend on the values of the operands. If, however, the smart card is also required to compute d_p , d_q , and v during an RSA private-key operation, then the computation of d_p , d_q , and v is an additional source of potential vulnerability. To reduce this added vulnerability, the computation of d_p , d_q , and v must use a sequence of operations that does not depend on the values of p and q . Since p and q are prime values, v may be computed using modular exponentiation via the operation $v = p^{q-2} \bmod q$. Thus, the smart card may use the

coprocessor to compute v , eliminating any new vulnerability associated with computing v . However, it is not possible to compute d_p and d_q using modular exponentiation. Thus, some scheme is needed to compute d_p and d_q in a way that does not introduce a new vulnerability.

5 Although the preceding discussion has focused on applications that use the CRT, not all applications do. Some applications perform the private-key operation without using the CRT, since that is a simpler (although more expensive) operation. In some such applications, storage space and security are still important issues.

The most direct way to store the private key in a non-CRT application is to store the parameters $\{n, d\}$, where n is the public modulus and d the private exponent. Storing the private key this way requires $4b$ bits.

10 Alternatively, in a non-CRT application, the private key could be stored simply as $\{p, q\}$, where p and q are the prime factors of n . Each time a private-key operation is performed, n and d are computed from the stored values of p and q . When stored in this way, the private key requires $2b$ bits. This is a savings by a factor of 2 over storing the key as $\{n, d\}$. The computation of n from p and q is a single multiply operation, since $n = pq$. This is an inexpensive operation compared to modular exponentiation, and since it is a single operation, it introduces no new vulnerability of exposing p and q . However, as with d_p and d_q in the CRT case, the computation of d from p and q may be a significant computational expense, and it may introduce a security vulnerability due to a

15 computational sequence that varies with the values of p and q .

20

Accordingly, it is an object of this invention to provide a parameterization of the RSA private key for CRT applications that uses less storage space than the full parameter set $\{p, q, d_p, d_q, v\}$ and that provides better computational efficiency than the minimal parameter set $\{p, q\}$.

5 It is also an object of this invention to provide a parameterization of the RSA private key for non-CRT applications that uses less storage space than the full parameter set $\{n, d\}$ and that provides better computational efficiency than the minimal parameter set $\{p, q\}$.

It is also an object of this invention to provide a means for computing the CRT parameters d_p and d_q , and the non-CRT parameter d , in a manner such that the computational sequence is independent of the values of the prime factors p and q , so as to reduce vulnerability to attacks that exploit such dependence.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

To overcome these and other shortcomings of the prior art, disclosed herein is an apparatus and method for providing a cryptography private key storage and recovery scheme that both lessens space requirements and enhances security. More particularly,
 20 the system of the present invention provides a means for deriving the private key from stored parameters not previously employed and provides a means for computing certain parameters while at the same time reducing security vulnerabilities.

One aspect of this invention is to replace the CRT parameters d_p and d_q , and the non-CRT parameter d , with smaller parameters k_p , k_q , and k , respectively. The values of k_p , k_q , and k are the values that satisfy the relationships:

$$k_p(p-1) \bmod e = 1;$$

$$k_q(q-1) \bmod e = 1;$$

$$k(p-1)(q-1) \bmod e = 1.$$

Each of k_p , k_q , and k has a value in the range of 1 to $(e-1)$, inclusive. Thus, each requires no more bits than the number of bits needed to store the public exponent e . In the popular case of $e = 2^{16} + 1$, each of k_p , k_q , and k can be stored as a 16-bit value, $(k_p - 1)$, $(k_q - 1)$, or $(k - 1)$, respectively.

In contrast, d_p and d_q each require b bits of storage, and d requires $2b$ bits of storage, where b is the number of bits in a prime factor p or q . A typical value for b is 512, corresponding to a public modulus having 1024 bits. In this typical case, d_p and d_q each require 32 times more storage space than k_p and k_q , and d requires 64 times more storage space than k .

A CRT application that stores k_p and k_q can recover d_p and d_q by the following calculations:

$$d_p = [1 + (p-1)(e - k_p)] / e;$$

$$d_q = [1 + (q - 1)(e - k_q)] / e.$$

A non-CRT application that stores k can recover d by the following calculation:

$$5 \quad d = [1 + (p - 1)(q - 1)(e - k)] / e.$$

In each of these calculations, “/” represents integer division; in each case, the dividend is a multiple of the divisor, so there is no remainder. A proof that these calculations yield the correct results is given at the end of this summary.

These calculations for d_p , d_q , and d require the application to perform division by the public exponent e . In some applications, division may be an awkward or undesirable operation. Furthermore, if an application implements the division using the usual long-division sequence of operations, the sequence of operations may depend on the values of p and q , making the private key vulnerable to attacks that exploit such dependence.

To avoid the need for division, a CRT application can recover d_p and d_q using the following calculations:

compute u such that $ue \bmod 2^b = 1$;

$$d_p = [1 + (p - 1)(e - k_p)]u \bmod 2^b;$$

$$20 \quad d_q = [1 + (q - 1)(e - k_q)]u \bmod 2^b.$$

A non-CRT application can recover d without using division via the following calculation:

compute t such that $te \bmod 2^{2b} = 1$;

$$d = [1 + (p - 1)(q - 1)(e - k)]t \bmod 2^{2b}.$$

A proof that these calculations yield the correct results is given at the end of this summary.

Ignoring for the moment the computation of u and t , it is clear that these calculations for the recovery of d_p , d_q , or d are computationally inexpensive and introduce no security vulnerability. Each calculation consists of two or three integer multiplications, three or four integer additions/subtractions, and a “mod 2^b ” or “mod 2^{2b} ” operation. The multiplication, addition, and subtraction operations are similar to the operations used to implement modular exponentiation. A single modular exponentiation uses thousands of such operations, so the added burden of a few more operations is negligible. The “mod 2^b ” operation is simply truncation to b bits, and the “mod 2^{2b} ” operation is truncation to $2b$ bits; these, too, are negligible. The sequence of operations does not depend on the values of p or q , so the calculation can be implemented without introducing new vulnerability to attacks that exploit such dependence.

Turning now to the computation of u and t , it is easy to see there is no security issue; the computation does not involve the private key, so it introduces no potential for

attack on the private key regardless of how it is implemented. It is also true that the computation is inexpensive, as follows.

First, consider the case where the public exponent e is the same for all private keys. In this case, u or t is a fixed value, so it can simply be stored once for all private keys and retrieved as needed. Even if the private keys of interest are of different lengths, that is, the value of b varies according to the private key, only one value for u or t needs to be stored, that value being the one that corresponds to the largest value of b . For values of b other than the maximum value, the stored value can simply be truncated using “mod 2^b ” for u or “mod 2^{2b} ” for t . In the popular case where $e = 2^{16} + 1$, it is not even necessary to store u or t ; either can be generated using the inexpensive calculations:

$$u = [1 + (2^{32} - 2^{16}) + (2^{64} - 2^{48}) + (2^{96} - 2^{80}) + (2^{128} - 2^{112}) + \dots] \bmod 2^b;$$

$$t = [1 + (2^{32} - 2^{16}) + (2^{64} - 2^{48}) + (2^{96} - 2^{80}) + (2^{128} - 2^{112}) + \dots] \bmod 2^{2b}.$$

For other common choices of e such as $e = 3$ or $e = 17$, a similar calculation can be derived.

Second, consider the general case where the public exponent e is different and arbitrary for each private key. In this case, the application must calculate u or t using a general-purpose algorithm that computes the multiplicative inverse of a number with respect to a modulus that is a power of 2 (such as 2^b or 2^{2b}). Such algorithms are well-known and computationally inexpensive. In many applications, such an algorithm is already implemented as part of the modular exponentiation operation; in particular, many

applications that use Montgomery multiplication, which is a popular means for implementing modular exponentiation, include such an algorithm. Compared to the expense of the modular exponentiation operation, the computational expense of executing such an the algorithm is usually small.

5 The discussion here has focused on the case where the public modulus n is the product of two primes, p and q . This is the usual situation in the RSA scheme. However, the RSA scheme can be generalized to a modulus that is the product of j primes, where j is an integer, $j \geq 2$. Such a generalization is described in U.S. Patent No. 5,848,159. The invention here applies to the generalized scheme. For example, consider a CRT application with prime factors p_1, p_2, \dots, p_j . There are j instances of the private exponent d , defined by $d_i = d \bmod (p_i - 1)$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, j$. To apply the invention, each d_i is replaced by k_i when the key is stored, where k_i is the value such that $k_i(p_i - 1) \bmod e = 1$. To recover d_i from k_i , calculate $d_i = [1 + (p_i - 1)(e - k_i)] / e$ or $d_i = [1 + (p_i - 1)(e - k_i)]u_i \bmod 2^{b_i}$, where b_i is an integer such that $p_i < 2^{b_i}$, and u_i is the value that satisfies $eu_i \bmod 2^{b_i} = 1$.

15

Proof of the formulas for d_p, d_q , and d . First it is proved that the formula

$$d_p = [1 + (p - 1)(e - k_p)] / e \quad (1)$$

20

yields the correct value for d_p by showing that $ed_p \bmod (p - 1) = 1$.

Let $a = 1 + (p - 1)(e - k_p)$. First we need to show that a is a multiple of e , so that the division operation in (1) yields an integer value. By definition, $k_p(p - 1) \bmod e = 1$. Thus, $k_p(p - 1) - 1$ is a multiple of e . Since $a = e(p - 1) - [k_p(p - 1) - 1]$, it follows that a is a multiple of e .

5 Now let d_p be as in (1). Then $ed_p \bmod (p - 1) = a \bmod (p - 1) = 1$. This proves formula (1).

Next we prove that the formula

$$d_p = [1 + (p - 1)(e - k_p)]u \bmod 2^b \quad (2)$$

yields the correct value for d_p by showing that $ed_p \bmod (p - 1) = 1$.

Again let $a = 1 + (p - 1)(e - k_p)$. It was previously shown that a is a multiple of e , so we can write $a = ce$, where c is an integer. Since $0 \leq (p - 1) < 2^b$ and $0 \leq (e - k_p) \leq e$, it follows that $0 < a < e2^b$, hence $0 < c < 2^b$. Now let d_p be as in (2). Then:

$$\begin{aligned} & ed_p \bmod (p - 1) \\ &= e[au \bmod 2^b] \bmod (p - 1) \\ &= e[cue \bmod 2^b] \bmod (p - 1) \\ &= e[c \bmod 2^b] \bmod (p - 1) \\ &= ec \bmod (p - 1) \\ &= a \bmod (p - 1) \\ &= 1. \end{aligned}$$

This proves formula (2).

The proofs for formulas

$$d_q = [1 + (q - 1)(e - k_q)] / e \quad (3)$$

$$d_q = [1 + (q - 1)(e - k_q)]u \bmod 2^b \quad (4)$$

are identical to those for formulas (1) and (2), with: d_q replacing d_p ; k_q replacing k_p ; and q replacing p .

The proofs for formulas

$$d = [1 + (p - 1)(q - 1)(e - k)] / e \quad (5)$$

$$d = [1 + (p - 1)(q - 1)(e - k)]t \bmod 2^{2b} \quad (6)$$

are similar to those for (1) and (2). The arguments for (5) and (6) are identical to those for (1) and (2), respectively, with: d replacing d_p ; k replacing k_p ; $(p - 1)(q - 1)$ replacing $(p - 1)$; and 2^{2b} replacing 2^b . The conclusion of the argument in each case is that $ed \bmod (p - 1)(q - 1) = 1$. From this it follows that $ed \bmod (p - 1) = ed \bmod (q - 1) = 1$.

Viewed from a first vantage point a cryptosystem private key recovery device is disclosed, comprising in combination, a processor, a nonvolatile memory space operatively coupled to said processor, and a set of private key parameters stored in said

nonvolatile memory space utilizing less storage space than the full parameter set $\{p, q, d_p, d_q, v\}$ and providing better computational efficiency than the minimal parameter set $\{p, q\}$, wherein the private key can be recovered from said set of stored private key parameters.

5

Viewed from another vantage point a method for recovering a private key is disclosed, comprising in combination, storing private key parameters in a memory space, utilizing less storage space for said private key parameters than the full parameter set $\{n, d\}$, and providing better computational efficiency than the minimal parameter set $\{p, q\}$.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING FIGURES

FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram of the cryptosystem environment of the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a flowchart of a first exemplary implementation of the present invention.

FIG. 3 is a flowchart of a second exemplary implementation of the present invention.

FIG. 4 is a flowchart of a third exemplary implementation of the present invention.

FIG. 5 is a flowchart of a fourth exemplary implementation of the present invention.

FIG. 6 is a flowchart of a fifth exemplary implementation of the present invention.

FIG. 7 is a flowchart of a sixth exemplary implementation of the present invention.

FIG. 8 is a is a flowchart of a seventh exemplary implementation of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Persons of ordinary skill in the art will realize that the following description of the present invention is illustrative only and not in any way limiting. Other embodiments of the invention will readily suggest themselves to such skilled persons having the benefit of this disclosure.

Fig. 1 illustrates a cryptosystem 10 capable of taking advantage of the invention. The cryptosystem 10 signs and decrypts messages provided to it via an I/O port 12. The cryptosystem 10 uses the RSA scheme to perform the signing and decrypting. The cryptosystem 10 has a processor 14 that controls all operations of the cryptosystem 10.

The cryptosystem 10 has an arithmetic coprocessor (ACP) 16 that facilitates the computations used in the RSA scheme when signing and decrypting. The private key used to perform the signing and decrypting is stored in nonvolatile storage 18 within the cryptosystem 10.

5 The cryptosystem 10 is capable of storing a collection of private keys in the nonvolatile storage 18 and selecting a private key to be used for a particular signing or decryption, according to commands given to it via the I/O port 12. The cryptosystem 10 is capable of computing the public key that corresponds to any private key stored in the nonvolatile storage 18 and transmitting the public key to an external device 20 via the I/O port 12.

10 The cryptosystem 10 is capable of generating private keys and storing them in the nonvolatile storage 18. When generating a private key, the cryptosystem uses a random number generator (RNG) 22 to ensure that the prime factors p and q of the private key are arbitrarily picked. The RNG 22 provides a random seed that is applied to an algorithm
15 that generates p and q . When storing the private key, the cryptosystem 10 may store the seed instead of storing p and q , recovering the values of p and q by applying the algorithm to the seed each time the private key is used to sign or decrypt.

20 The cryptosystem 10 is also capable of accepting private keys provided to it by external devices 20 via the I/O port 12 and storing the private keys in the nonvolatile storage 18. An externally provided private key may itself be encrypted by the external device using the public key that corresponds to one of the private keys already present in the nonvolatile storage 18 of the cryptosystem 10. In such a case, the cryptosystem 10

decrypts the encrypted private key using the private key already in nonvolatile storage 18, then stores the decrypted private key in nonvolatile storage 18.

Regardless of whether a private key is generated by the cryptosystem 10 or provided by an external device 20, the cryptosystem 10 is capable of using the invention to reduce the amount of nonvolatile storage 18 needed to store the private key, and to recover the private key quickly and without introducing security vulnerabilities. The cryptosystem 10 has many related variations of how the invention can be applied to trade off storage space versus recovery speed.

In a first example, and referring now to Figure 2, initially store the private key parameters as $\{p, q, k_p, k_q, v\}$ where: p and q are the prime factors of the public modulus; v is the value satisfying $pv \bmod q = 1$; k_p is the value satisfying $k_p(p - 1) \bmod e = 1$, where e is the public exponent; and k_q is the value satisfying $k_q(q - 1) \bmod e = 1$. To recover the private key in the usual CRT form of $\{p, q, d_p, d_q, v\}$, where $d_p = d \bmod (p - 1)$, $d_q = d \bmod (q - 1)$, and d is the private exponent, calculate $d_p = [1 + (p - 1)(e - k_p)] u \bmod 2^b$, $d_q = [1 + (q - 1)(e - k_q)] u \bmod 2^b$, where b is an integer such that $p < 2^b$ and $q < 2^b$, and u is the value satisfying $ue \bmod 2^b = 1$.

In a second example, and referring now to Figure 3, initially store the private key parameters as $\{p, q, k_p, k_q\}$, where p, q, k_p , and k_q are as in the first example. To recover the private key, first compute the value v satisfying $pv \bmod q = 1$. Then proceed using $\{p, q, k_p, k_q, v\}$ as in the first example.

In a third example, and referring now to Figure 4, initially store the private key parameters as $\{\text{seed}, k_p, k_q, v\}$, where: seed is the input to the algorithm that generates the prime factors p and q of the public modulus; and k_p , k_q , and v are as in the first example. To recover the private key, first apply the algorithm to the seed to recover the values of p and q . Then, proceed using $\{p, q, k_p, k_q, v\}$ as in the first example. Numerous seed algorithms are known in the art. See for example algorithms that generate prime numbers from a random seed, at Appendix 2 of [FIPS186] U.S. Department of Commerce/National Institute of Standards and Technology, "Digital Signature Standard (DSS)," FIPS PUB 186-2, January 27, 2000.

In a fourth example, and referring now to Figure 5, initially store the private key parameters as $\{\text{seed}, k_p, k_q\}$ where: seed, k_p and k_q are as in the third example. To recover the private key, first apply the algorithm to the seed to recover the values of p and q . Then proceed using $\{p, q, k_p, k_q\}$ as in the second example.

In an alternate embodiment, initially store the private key parameters using any of the formats described in the previous four examples. When recovering the private key, instead of using the calculations for d_p and d_q described in the previous examples, calculate $d_p = [1 + (p - 1)(e - k_p)] / e$ and $d_q = [1 + (q - 1)(e - k_q)] / e$. Also, as another alternative in the preceding examples, instead of storing k_p and k_q , k_p and k_q could be calculated from p , q , and e . Each could be computed using Euclid's algorithm, or a common variation thereof, although this may introduce a security vulnerability because

the sequence of operations depends on p and q . Alternatively, in the case that e is prime, as with the popular value $e = 2^{16} + 1$, each can be computed using modular exponentiation, using the formulas $k_p = (p-1)^{e-2} \bmod e$ and $k_q = (q-1)^{e-2} \bmod e$; this can be done without introducing a security vulnerability because the sequence of operations can be made independent of p and q . Since e is a small number, computational expense of computing k_p and k_q is often negligible compared to the computational expense of the RSA private-key operation.

In a fifth example, and referring now to Figure 6, initially store the private key parameters as $\{p, q, k\}$ where: p and q are the prime factors of the public modulus; and k is the value satisfying $k(p-1)(q-1) \bmod e = 1$, where e is the public exponent. To recover the private key in the usual non-CRT form of $\{n, d\}$, where n is the public modulus and d the private exponent, calculate $n = pq$ and $d = [1 + (p-1)(q-1)]t \bmod 2^{2b}$, where b is an integer such that $p < 2^b$ and $q < 2^b$, and t is the value satisfying $te \bmod 2^{2b} = 1$.

In a sixth example, and referring now to Figure 7, initially store the private key parameters using the format in the fifth example. When recovering the private key, instead of using the calculation for d described in the fifth example, calculate $d = [1 + (p-1)(q-1)] / e$.

In a seventh example, and referring now to Figure 8, initially store the private key parameters using the format in the fifth example. When recovering the private key, first compute the private exponent d using the calculation in either of the prior two (fifth or sixth) examples. Then, to recover the private key in the usual CRT form of $\{p, q, d_p, d_q, v\}$, calculate $d_p = d \bmod (p - 1)$ and $d_q = d \bmod (q - 1)$, and compute the value v satisfying $pv \bmod q = 1$.

While embodiments and applications of this invention have been shown and described, it would be apparent to those skilled in the art that many more modifications than mentioned above are possible without departing from the inventive concepts herein. The invention, therefore, is not to be restricted except in the spirit of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A cryptosystem private key recovery device, comprising in combination:
 a processor;
 5 a nonvolatile memory space operatively coupled to said processor; and
 a set of private key parameters stored in said nonvolatile memory space utilizing
 less storage space than the full parameter set $\{p, q, d_p, d_q, v\}$ and providing better
 computational efficiency than the minimal parameter set $\{p, q\}$, wherein the private key
 can be recovered from said set of stored private key parameters.

2. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 1 further comprising said
 set of private key parameters defined by the parameters $\{p, q, k_p, k_q, v\}$ wherein p and q
 are given prime factors of a public modulus, k_p and k_q are derived from $k_p (p-1) \bmod e=1$
 and $k_q (q-1) \bmod e=1$, e is a given public exponent and v is derived from $pv \bmod q=1$.

3. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 2 further comprising:

a d_p calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to
 calculate d_p from $d_p = [1 + (p-1)(e-k_p)]u \bmod 2^b$;

a d_q calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to
 20 calculate d_q from $d_q = [1 + (q-1)(e-k_q)]u \bmod 2^b$; and

wherein b is an integer such that p is less than 2^b and q is less than 2^b , and $ue \bmod 2^b = 1$.

4. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 3 further comprising a private key parameter assembler for assembling the private key parameters $\{p, q, d_p, d_q, v\}$ from said stored and calculated values.

5

5. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 2 further comprising:

a d_p calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate d_p from $d_p = [1 + (p-1)(e-k_p)]/e$; and

a d_q calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate d_q from $d_q = [1 + (q-1)(e-k_q)]/e$.

6. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 5 further comprising a private key parameter assembler for assembling the private key parameters $\{p, q, d_p, d_q, v\}$ from said stored and calculated values.

7. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 1 further comprising said set of private key parameters defined by the parameters $\{p, q, k_p, k_q\}$ wherein p and q are given prime factors of a public modulus, k_p and k_q are derived from $k_p (p-1) \bmod e = 1$ and $k_q (q-1) \bmod e = 1$, and e is a given public exponent.

20

8. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 7 further comprising a v calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate v from $pv \bmod q = 1$.

5 9. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 8 further comprising:
 a d_p calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate d_p from $d_p = [1 + (p-1)(e-k_p)]u \bmod 2^b$;
 a d_q calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate d_q from $d_q = [1 + (q-1)(e-k_q)]u \bmod 2^b$; and
 wherein b is an integer such that p is less than 2^b and q is less than 2^b , and $ue \bmod 2^b = 1$.

10. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 9 further comprising a private key parameter assembler for assembling the private key parameters $\{p, q, d_p, d_q, v\}$ from said stored and calculated values.

11. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 8 further comprising:

a d_p calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate d_p from $d_p = [1 + (p-1)(e-k_p)]/e$; and

20 a d_q calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate d_q from $d_q = [1 + (q-1)(e-k_q)]/e$.

12. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 10 further comprising a private key parameter assembler for assembling the private key parameters $\{p, q, d_p, d_q, v\}$ from said stored and calculated values.

13. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 1 further comprising said set of private key parameters defined by the parameters $\{\text{seed}, k_p, k_q, v\}$ wherein k_p and k_q are derived from $k_p (p-1) \bmod e=1$ and $k_q (q-1) \bmod e=1$, e is a given public exponent, v is derived from $p v \bmod q=1$, and seed is a value derived from a random number generator.

14. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 13 further comprising:

a p calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate p from said seed; and

a q calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate q from said seed.

15. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 14 further comprising:

a d_p calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate d_p from $d_p = [1 + (p-1)(e-k_p)]u \bmod 2^b$;

a d_q calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate d_q from $d_q = [1 + (q-1)(e-k_q)]u \bmod 2^b$; and

wherein b is an integer such that p is less than 2^b and q is less than 2^b , and $ue \bmod 2^b = 1$.

16. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 15 further comprising a private key parameter assembler for assembling the private key parameters $\{p, q, d_p, d_q, v\}$ from said stored and calculated values.

17. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 14 further comprising:

a d_p calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate d_p from $d_p = [1 + (p-1)(e-k_p)]/e$; and

a d_q calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate d_q from $d_q = [1 + (q-1)(e-k_q)]/e$.

18. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 17 further comprising a private key parameter assembler for assembling the private key parameters $\{p, q, d_p, d_q, v\}$ from said stored and calculated values.

19. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 1 further comprising said set of private key parameters defined by the parameters $\{\text{seed}, k_p, k_q\}$ wherein k_p and k_q are derived from $k_p (p-1) \bmod e = 1$ and $k_q (q-1) \bmod e = 1$, e is a given public exponent, and seed is a value derived from a random number generator.

20. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 19 further comprising:

a p calculator in active cooperation with said processor and capable of calculating p from said seed; and

5 a q calculator in active cooperation with said processor and capable of calculating q from said seed.

21. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 20 further comprising a v calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate v from $pv \bmod q = 1$.

22. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 21 further comprising:

a d_p calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate d_p from $d_p = [1 + (p-1)(e-k_p)]u \bmod 2^b$;

15 a d_q calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate d_q from $d_q = [1 + (q-1)(e-k_q)]u \bmod 2^b$; and

wherein b is an integer such that p is less than 2^b and q is less than 2^b , and $ue \bmod 2^b = 1$.

23. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 22 further comprising a private key parameter assembler for assembling the private key parameters {p, q, d_p , d_q , v} from said stored and calculated values.

20

24. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 21 further comprising:

a d_p calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to

calculate d_p from $d_p = [1 + (p-1)(e-k_p)]/e$; and

a d_q calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to

5 calculate d_q from $d_q = [1 + (q-1)(e-k_q)]/e$.

25. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 24 further comprising a private key parameter assembler for assembling the private key parameters $\{p, q, d_p, d_q, v\}$ from said stored and calculated values.

26. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 1 further comprising said set of private key parameters defined by the parameters $\{p, q, v\}$ wherein p and q are given prime factors of a public modulus, and v is derived from $pv \bmod q = 1$.

15 27. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 26 further comprising:

a k_p calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to

calculate k_p from $k_p (p-1) \bmod e = 1$;

a k_q calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to

calculate k_q from $k_q (q-1) \bmod e = 1$; and

20 wherein e is a given public exponent.

28. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 27 further comprising:

a d_p calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to

calculate d_p from $d_p = [1 + (p-1)(e-k_p)]u \bmod 2^b$;

a d_q calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to

5 calculate d_q from $d_q = [1 + (q-1)(e-k_q)]u \bmod 2^b$; and

wherein b is an integer such that p is less than 2^b and q is less than 2^b , and $ue \bmod 2^b = 1$.

29. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 28 further comprising a
10 private key parameter assembler for assembling the private key parameters $\{p, q, d_p, d_q, v\}$ from said stored and calculated values.

30. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 27 further comprising:

a d_p calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to

15 calculate d_p from $d_p = [1 + (p-1)(e-k_p)]/e$; and

a d_q calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to

calculate d_q from $d_q = [1 + (q-1)(e-k_q)]/e$.

31. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 30 further comprising a

20 private key parameter assembler for assembling the private key parameters $\{p, q, d_p, d_q, v\}$ from said stored and calculated values.

32. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 1 further comprising said set of private key parameters defined by the parameters $\{p, q\}$ wherein p and q are given prime factors of a public modulus.

5

33. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 32 further comprising:

a k_p calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to

calculate k_p from $k_p (p-1) \bmod e=1$;

a k_q calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to

calculate k_q from $k_q (q-1) \bmod e=1$; and

wherein e is a given public exponent.

34. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 33 further comprising a v calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate v from $p v \bmod q=1$.

15

35. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 34 further comprising:

a d_p calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to

calculate d_p from $d_p=[1+(p-1)(e-k_p)]u \bmod 2^b$;

20 a d_q calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to

calculate d_q from $d_q=[1+(q-1)(e-k_q)]u \bmod 2^b$; and

wherein b is an integer such that p is less than 2^b and q is less than 2^b , and $ue \bmod 2^b = 1$.

36. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 35 further comprising a private key parameter assembler for assembling the private key parameters $\{p, q, d_p, d_q, v\}$ from said stored and calculated values.

37. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 34 further comprising:

a d_p calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate d_p from $d_p = [1 + (p-1)(e-k_p)]/e$; and

a d_q calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate d_q from $d_q = [1 + (q-1)(e-k_q)]/e$.

38. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 37 further comprising a private key parameter assembler for assembling the private key parameters $\{p, q, d_p, d_q, v\}$ from said stored and calculated values.

39. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 1 further comprising said set of private key parameters defined by the parameters $\{\text{seed}, v\}$ wherein v is derived from $pv \bmod q = 1$, and seed is a value derived from a random number generator.

40. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 39 further comprising:

a p calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate p from said seed; and

a q calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate q from said seed.

5

41. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 40 further comprising:

a k_p calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate k_p from $k_p (p-1) \bmod e=1$;

a k_q calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate k_q from $k_q (q-1) \bmod e=1$; and

wherein e is a given public exponent.

42. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 41 further comprising:

a d_p calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate d_p from $d_p=[1+(p-1)(e-k_p)]u \bmod 2^b$;

a d_q calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate d_q from $d_q=[1+(q-1)(e-k_q)]u \bmod 2^b$; and

wherein b is an integer such that p is less than 2^b and q is less than 2^b , and $ue \bmod 2^b=1$.

43. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 42 further comprising a private key parameter assembler for assembling the private key parameters $\{p, q, d_p, d_q, v\}$ from said stored and calculated values.

5 44. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 41 further comprising:

a d_p calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate d_p from $d_p = [1 + (p-1)(e-k_p)]/e$; and

a d_q calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate d_q from $d_q = [1 + (q-1)(e-k_q)]/e$.

45. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 44 further comprising a private key parameter assembler for assembling the private key parameters $\{p, q, d_p, d_q, v\}$ from said stored and calculated values.

15 46. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 1 further comprising said set of private key parameters defined by the parameters $\{\text{seed},\}$ wherein seed is a value derived from a random number generator.

47. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 46 further comprising:

20 a p calculator in active cooperation with said processor and capable of calculating p from said seed; and

a q calculator in active cooperation with said processor and capable of calculating q from said seed.

48. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 47 further comprising:

a k_p calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate k_p from $k_p (p-1) \bmod e=1$;

a k_q calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate k_q from $k_q (q-1) \bmod e=1$; and

wherein e is a given public exponent.

49. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 48 further comprising a v calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate v from $p v \bmod q=1$.

50. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 49 further comprising:

a d_p calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate d_p from $d_p=[1+(p-1)(e-k_p)]u \bmod 2^b$;

a d_q calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate d_q from $d_q=[1+(q-1)(e-k_q)]u \bmod 2^b$; and

wherein b is an integer such that p is less than 2^b and q is less than 2^b , and $ue \bmod 2^b=1$.

51. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 50 further comprising a private key parameter assembler for assembling the private key parameters $\{p, q, d_p, d_q, v\}$ from said stored and calculated values.

5 52. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 49 further comprising:

a d_p calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate d_p from $d_p = [1 + (p-1)(e-k_p)]/e$; and

a d_q calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate d_q from $d_q = [1 + (q-1)(e-k_q)]/e$.

53. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 52 further comprising a private key parameter assembler for assembling the private key parameters $\{p, q, d_p, d_q, v\}$ from said stored and calculated values.

15 54. A cryptosystem private key recovery device, comprising in combination:

a processor;

a nonvolatile memory space operatively coupled to said processor; and

a set of private key parameters stored in said nonvolatile memory space and utilizing less storage space than the full parameter set $\{n, d\}$ and providing better
20 computational efficiency than the minimal parameter set $\{p, q\}$.

55. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 54 further comprising said set of private key parameters defined by the parameters $\{p, q, k\}$ wherein p and q are given prime factors of a public modulus, k is derived from $k(p-1)(q-1) \bmod e = 1$, and e is a given public exponent.

5

56. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 55 further comprising a n calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate n from $n=pq$.

57. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 56 further comprising a d calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate d from $d=[1+(p-1)(q-1)]t \bmod 2^{2b}$, wherein $te \bmod 2^{2b}=1$ and b is an integer such that p is less than 2^b and q is less than 2^b .

58. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 57 further comprising a private key parameter assembler for assembling the private key parameters $\{n, d\}$ from said stored and calculated values.

59. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 56 further comprising a d calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate d from $d=[1+(p-1)(q-1)]/e$.

60. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 59 further comprising a private key parameter assembler for assembling the private key parameters $\{n, d\}$ from said stored and calculated values.

5

61. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 57 further comprising:

a d_p calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate d_p from $d_p = d \bmod (p-1)$; and

a d_q calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate d_q from $d_q = d \bmod (q-1)$.

62. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 61 further comprising a v calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate v from $pv \bmod q = 1$.

63. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 62 further comprising a private key parameter assembler for assembling the private key parameters $\{p, q, d_p, d_q, v\}$ from said stored and calculated values.

20 64. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 59 further comprising:

a d_p calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate d_p from $d_p = d \bmod (p-1)$; and

a d_q calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate d_q from $d_q = d \bmod (q-1)$.

5

65. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 64 further comprising a v calculator in active cooperation with said processor and configured to calculate v from $pv \bmod q = 1$.

10

66. The cryptosystem private key recovery device of claim 65 further comprising a private key parameter assembler for assembling the private key parameters $\{p, q, d_p, d_q, v\}$ from said stored and calculated values.

15

67. A method for recovering a private key, comprising in combination:

storing private key parameters in a memory space;

utilizing less storage space for said private key parameters than the full parameter set $\{p, q, d_p, d_q, v\}$; and

providing better computational efficiency than the minimal parameter set $\{p, q\}$.

20 68. A method for recovering a private key, comprising in combination:

storing private key parameters in a memory space;

utilizing less storage space for said private key parameters than the full parameter set $\{n, d\}$; and

providing better computational efficiency than the minimal parameter set $\{p, q\}$.

ABSTRACT

Disclosed herein is a system and method for storage and recovery of a private key in a cryptographic system by providing a parameterization of the private key that uses less storage space than the full CRT parameter set $\{p, q, d_p, d_q, v\}$ and that provides better computational efficiency than the minimal parameter set $\{p, q\}$. Also disclosed is a system and method for storage and recovery of a private key in a cryptographic system by providing a parameterization of the private key that uses less storage space than the full non-CRT parameter set $\{n, d\}$ and that provides better computational efficiency than the minimal parameter set $\{p, q\}$. Furthermore, disclosed herein is a means for computing the parameters d_p , d_q , and d in a manner such that the computational sequence is independent of the values of the prime factors p and q , thereby reducing vulnerability to attacks that exploit such dependence.

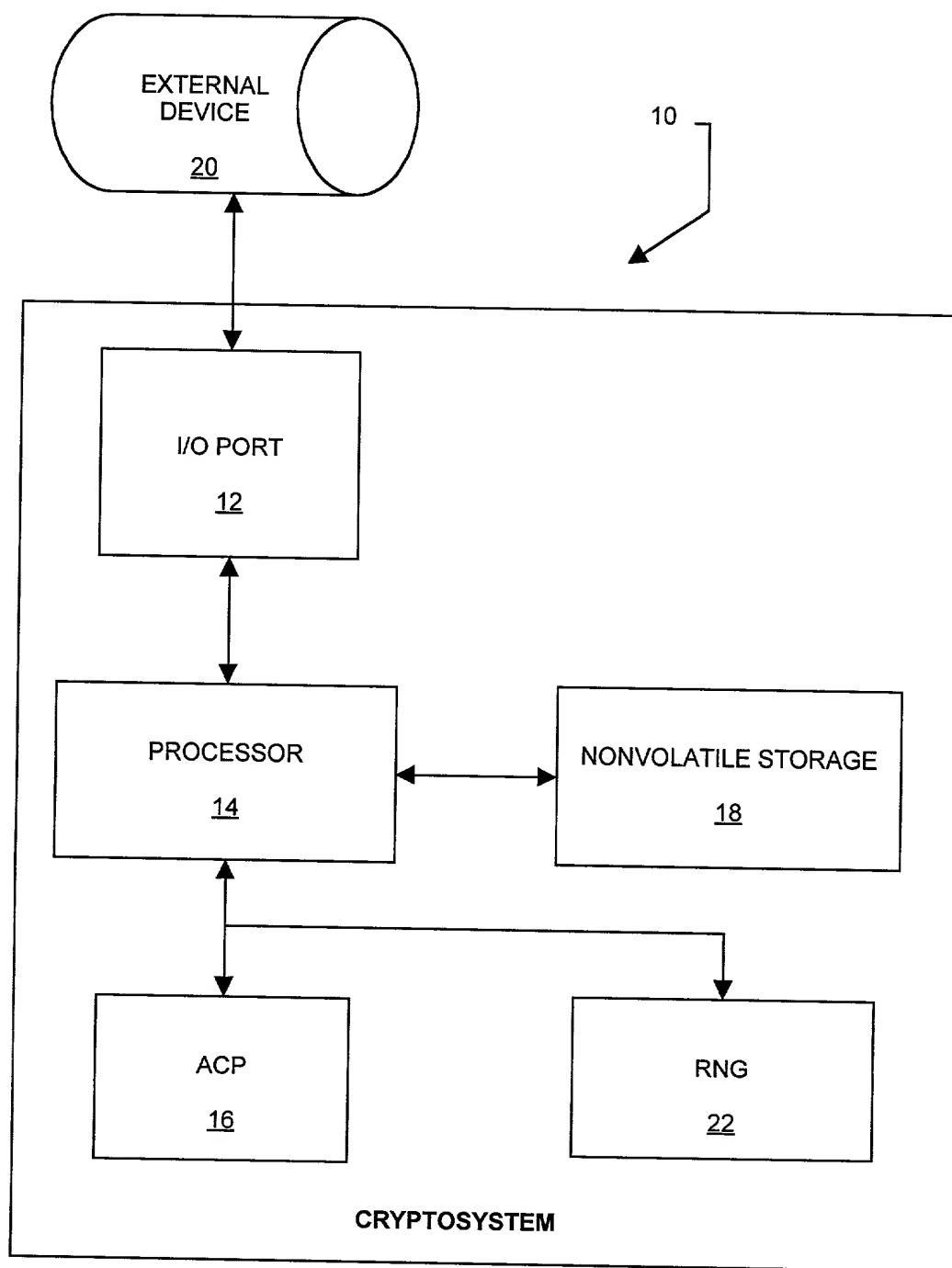


FIG. 1

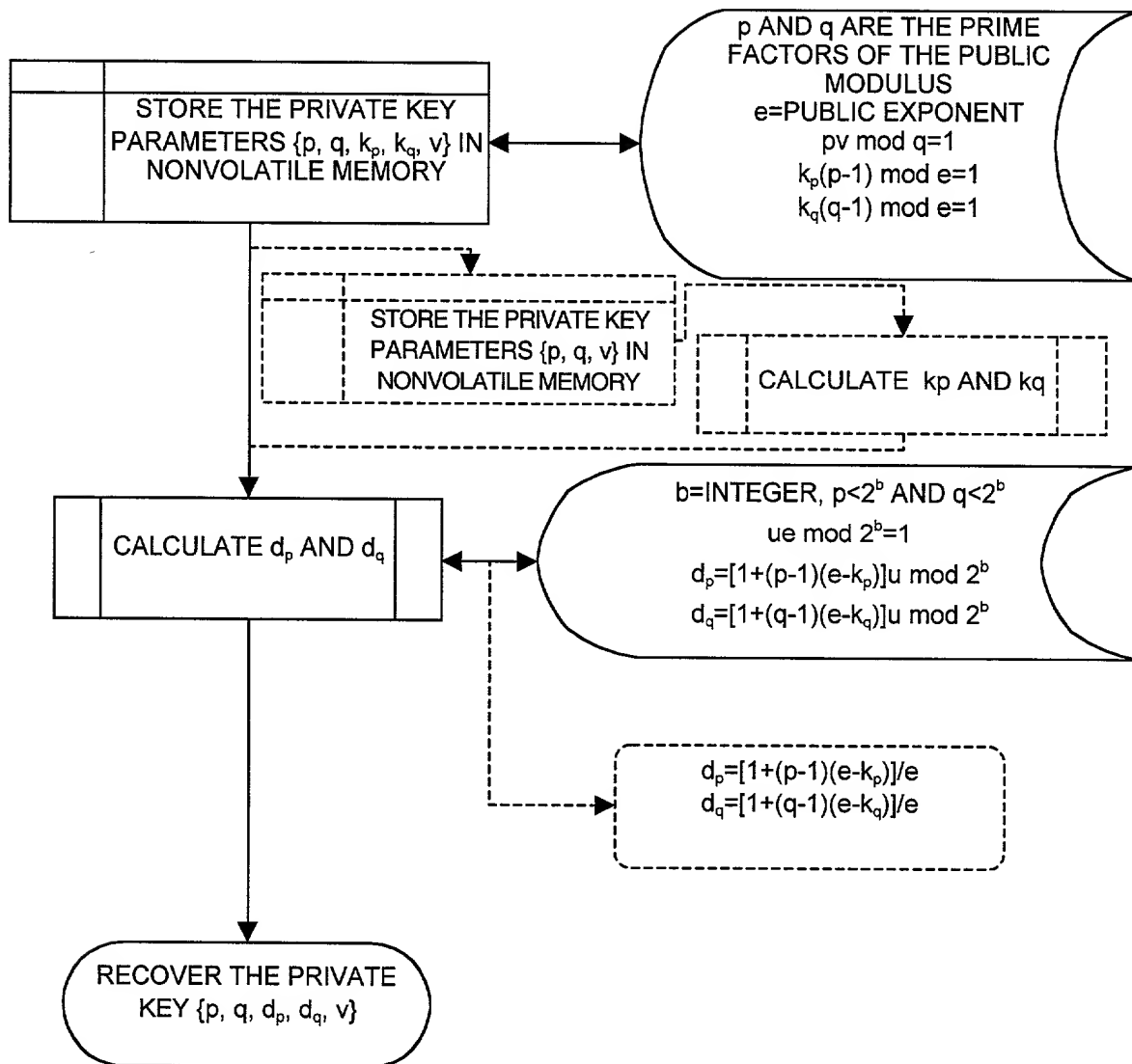


FIG. 2

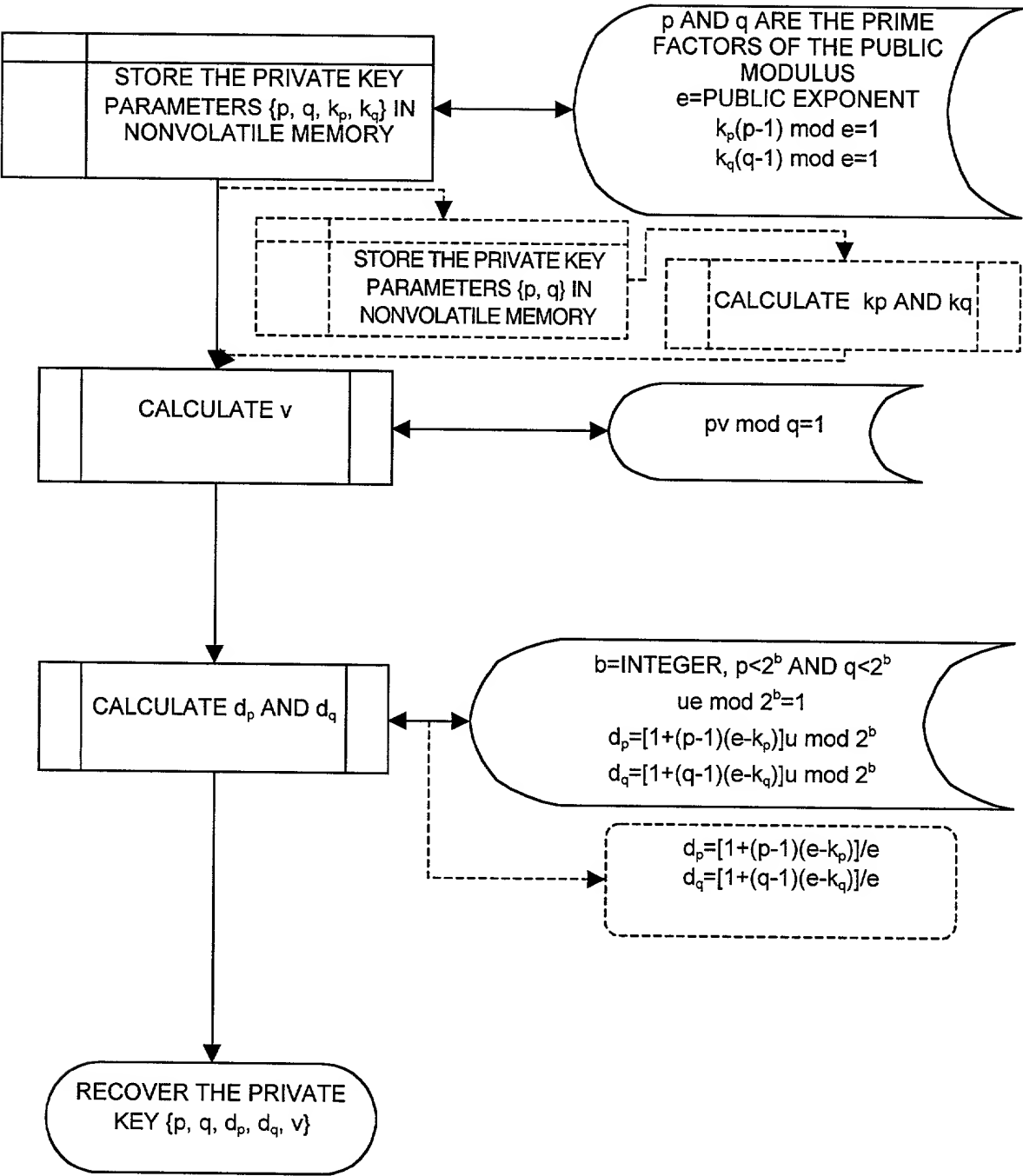


FIG. 3

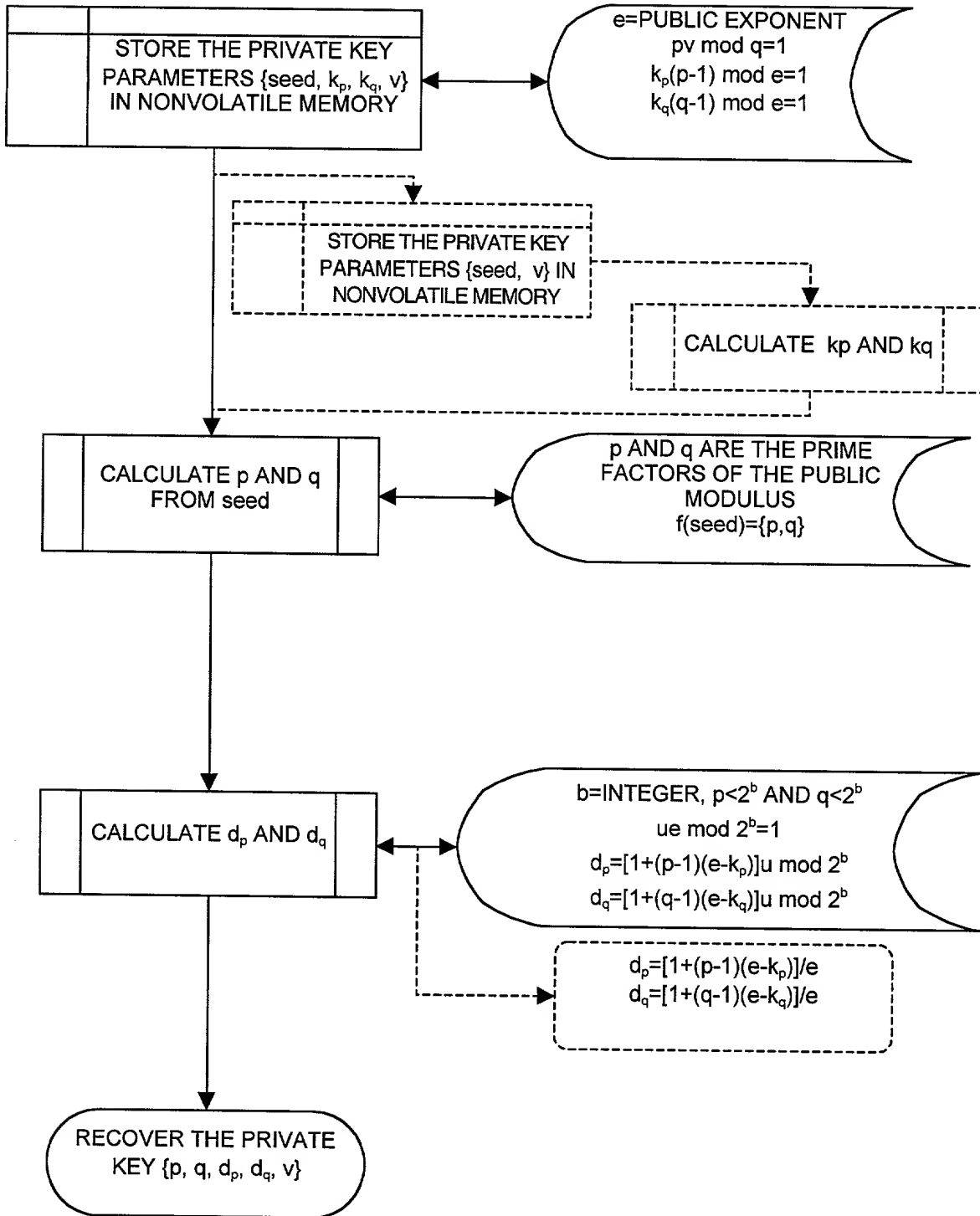


FIG. 4

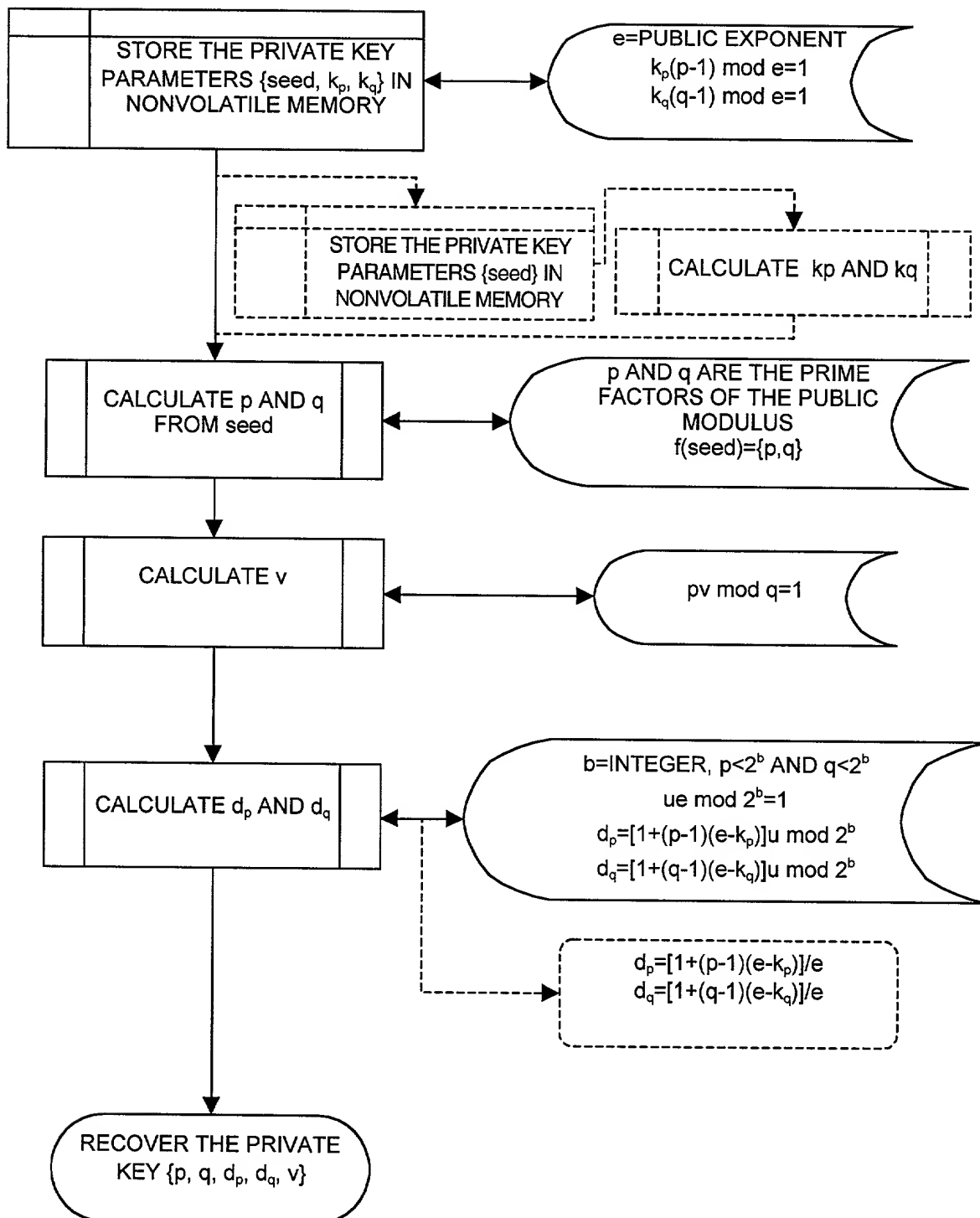


FIG. 5

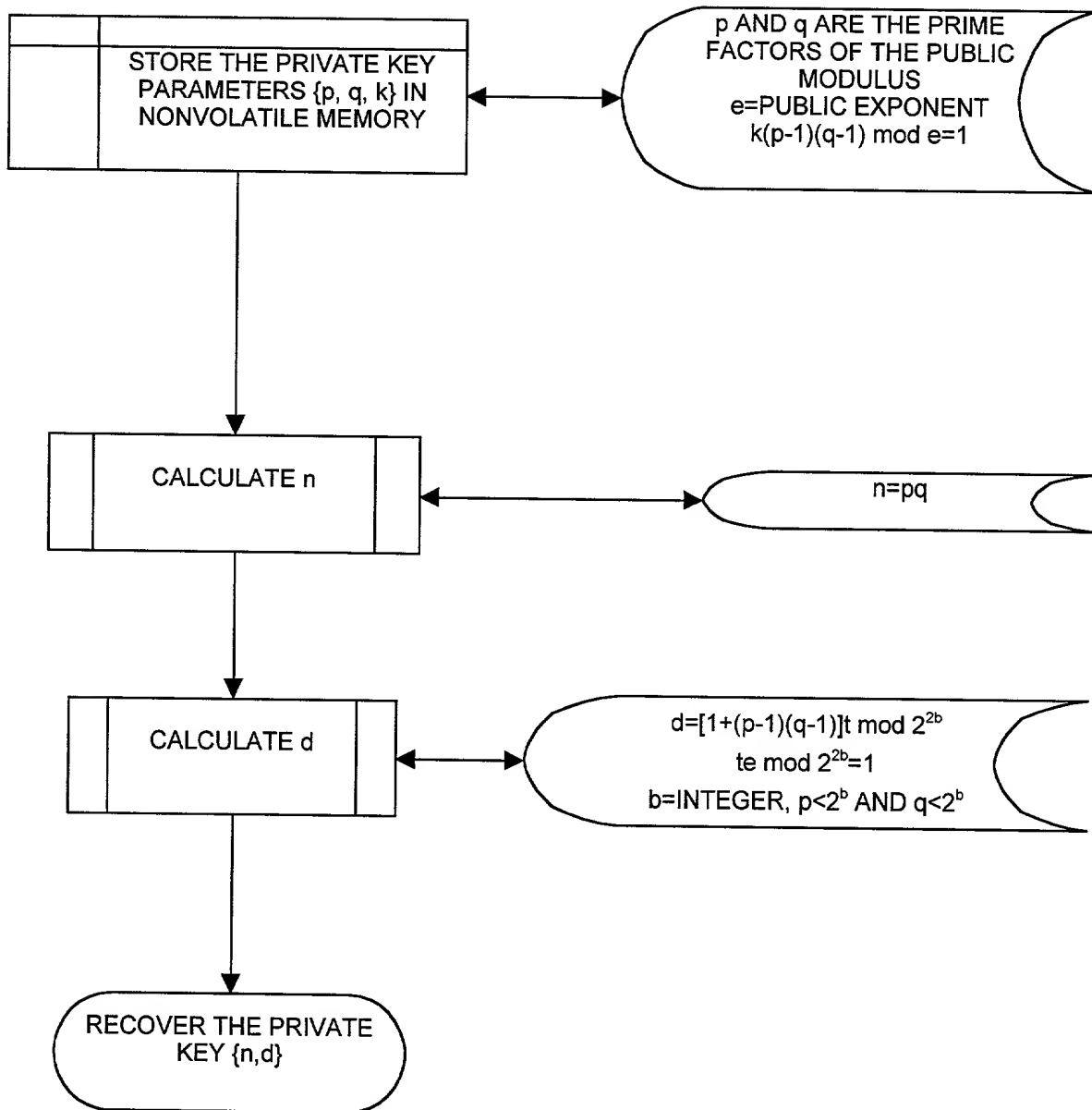


FIG. 6

FIG. 7 is a flowchart illustrating a process for recovering a private key. The process begins with a step to store private key parameters {p, q, k} in nonvolatile memory. This step is linked to a data store containing the prime factors p and q, the public exponent e, and the equation $k(p-1)(q-1) \bmod e = 1$. The process then proceeds to calculate n, which is linked to a data store containing the equation $n = pq$. Next, the process calculates d, which is linked to a data store containing the equation $d = [1 + (p-1)(q-1)] / e$. Finally, the process recovers the private key {n, d}.

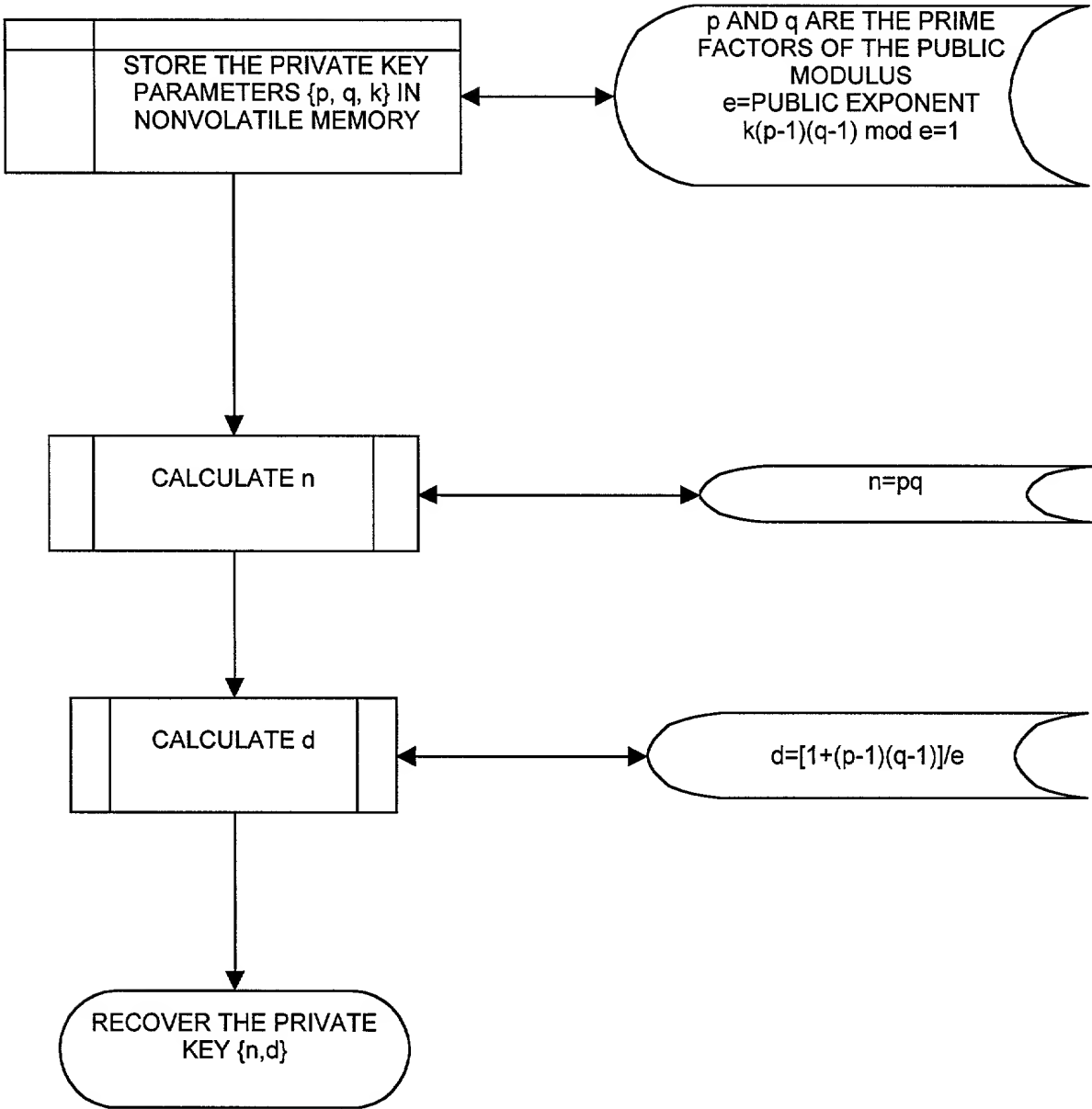


FIG. 7

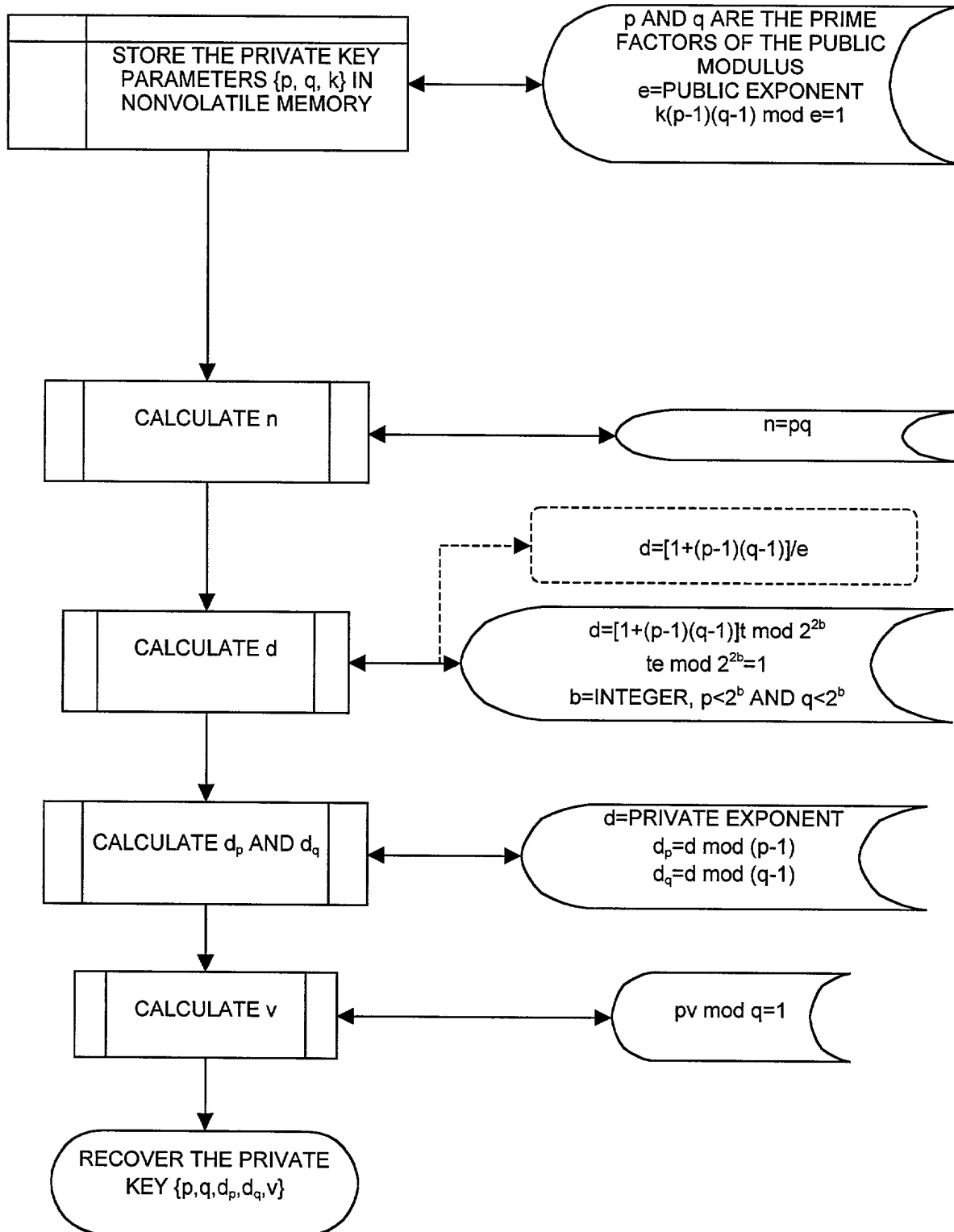


FIG. 8